

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18040 200539Z

21-20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 DRC-01 AID-20 PM-07 IGA-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AGR-20 SS-20

NSC-10 L-03 CG-00 FMC-04 DLOS-06 COA-02 /129 W

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R 200204Z NOV 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8368

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

UNCLAS BANGKOK 18040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN. EAID, CB

SUBJECT: NEW REGULATIONS FOR RICE SHIPMENT

REF: BANGKOK 15253

1. RICE PURCHASED ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT (GTOG) CONTRACTS IN THAILAND NEED NO LONGER BE SHIPPED EXCLUSIVELY THAI MARITIME NAVIGATION, AN RTG STATE ENTERPRISE, ACCORDING TO RECENT RTG DIRECTIVE

RTG HAS, HOWEVER, REQUESTED THAT G TO G RICE PURCHASERS ENQUIRE AS TO AVAILABILITY OF THAI SHIPS BEFORE ARRANGING FOR OTHER SHIPPING. IF THAI MARITIME IS ABLE TO PROVIDE SHIPS ON TIMELY BASIS, TO SATISFACTION OF CUSTOMER, AT COMPETITIVE TIMES, RTG HOPES G TO G PURCHASER WILL USE THAI SHIPS.

2. IN ADDITION TO RELAXING REGULATION ON USE OF THAI MARITIME, SANYA GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED THAI MARITIME'S CHAIRMAN AND HIS ASSISTANT

PHAIROT ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION. AMONG THE CHARGES LODGED AGAINST THE PAIR ARE CORRUPTION IN SHIPMENT OF RICE AND MINITIONS TO THE KHMER PEOPLE. BESIDES DISMISSAL, PHAIROT AND HIS BOSS FACE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND SUITS TO RECOVER MONEY ALLEGEDLY DEFRAUDED FROM THAI MARITIME.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 18040 200539Z

3. INDONESIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, MOST RECENT NEGOTIATOR FOR

PURCHASE OF THAI RICE ON G TO G BASIS, TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS CONVENCED
BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE, INTENT OF NEW RTG REGULATION ON USE
OF THAI MARI WAS TO REMEDY EXCESSES OF FIRM UNDER THAI MARITIME'S
FORMER
CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION.
ALSO SAID RTG REGULATION ON USE OF THAI MARITIME WAS INTELLIGENTLY
APPLIED AND CAUSED HIS GOVERNMENT NO PROBLEMS IN ARRANGING FOR
SHIPMENT INDONESIA'S RECENT RICE PURCHASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO18040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731124/aaaaardv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 15253
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by myersjs0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW REGULATIONS FOR RICE SHIPMENT
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005